

(b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY

From: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 4:52 PM
To: (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) LTC (USA) OSD POLICY; (b)(6)
 CIV USA NORAD USNORTHCOM HQs J59
Cc: (b)(6) LTC JCS J5 Americas; (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Subject: RE: Zeta questions

We have found no information to corroborate the rumor that any of the "Zetas" may have received training from the United States. This does not necessarily prove that no such training took place, but we have nothing to substantiate the allegation.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 3:31 PM
To: (b)(6) CIV OSD POLICY; (b)(6) LTC (USA) OSD POLICY;
 (b)(6) CIV USA NORAD USNORTHCOM HQs J59
Cc: (b)(6) LTC JCS J5 Americas
Subject: FW: Zeta questions

I know we don't provide to the public info on individuals trained, but your other thoughts are welcome.

Do you know if the training was with 1004?

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 12:22 PM
To: (b)(6) CIV, OSD-POLICY; (b)(6) CDR JCS SJS Public
 Affairs
Cc: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA; (b)(6) Lt Col OSD PA; (b)(6)
 (b)(6) Lt Col OASD-PA; (b)(6) LTC MIL USA
Subject: FW: Zeta questions

(b)(6) et al,

Saludos.

Please see below follow-up query from Newsweek's Mike Isikoff.

Newsweek is working on a magazine feature story about Mexico cartels and his deadline is tomorrow.

Any thoughts as to our response?

Atte,

(b)(6)

CMDR, USN
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Public Affairs
Spokesman
Western Hemisphere

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Isikoff, Michael [mailto:Michael.Isikoff@newsweek.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 11:45 AM

To: (b)(6) CDR OSD PA

Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: Zeta questions

(b)(6)

We are preparing a story about the Zetas-- former members of the Mexican GAFES who have become a prime source of violence on the US-Mexican border.

According to this May 8, 1996 Defense Link report,

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=40830>

the U.S. and Mexico entered into a defense cooperation agreement that year to train Mexican special forces in counter narcotics operations in Fort Benning and Fort Bragg. I have been told by Fort Benning public affairs that the training actually occurred at the Special Operations School at Fort Bragg.

I have been further told by both Defense Department and Mexican Government officials that several hundred GAFES were trained under this program until about 2001, that a small group of those -- perhaps around a dozen but possibly more, defected to the Zetas and that one of them included Heriberto Lazcano Lazcano, an indicted drug trafficker who is considered by DEA the current leader of the Zetas.

Specifically, I wanted to ask:

1. How many Mexican Gafes were trained under the program?
2. HOW long did it last?
3. How many Zetas are believed to have been trained in the U.S.?
4. Can you tell me approximate dates for when Lazcano Lazcano was trained at Fort Bragg and what the nature of his training were?

Thanks. I will need these answers by close of business tomorrow.

Michael Isikoff

Newsweek

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